



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Valley Health Welcomes Karen Villanueva-Matkovich as
Special Assistant/Chief Strategy Officer**

HUNTINGTON, W.VA. – Valley Health recently welcomed Karen Villanueva-Matkovich as special assistant to CEO Steve Shattls and chief strategy officer, where she will assist in the development of strategic initiatives as the organization continues to be a regional leader in the provision of quality health care to its patients.

“As our organization grows, particularly in times of health care changes, having KVM’s many years of health care and government experience on our team will be extremely valuable as we strategize for the future,” Shattls said.

A member of the West Virginia State Bar, Villanueva-Matkovich most recently served as general counsel for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. Previously, she practiced as an attorney for the State Tax Division with a focus on litigation and privacy tax law matters as well as provided legal consultation to the pharmaceutical and biotech industry regarding regulatory and strategic issues in areas such as biomedicine and biotechnology. Additional past legal experience includes working as an assistant public defender in the Raleigh County Public Defender’s Office and as a staff attorney for the Homeless Advocacy Project in Philadelphia.

Her community service includes previously serving as a member of the State AIDS Advisory Committee and the West Virginia Healthy Peoples 2010 Objectives. In 2004, the West Virginia Bureau of Public Health recognized her for Outstanding Service and Dedication to AIDS Awareness and HIV/AIDS Prevention.

A 1990 graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Villanueva-Matkovich later earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Rutgers University School of Law. Villanueva-Matkovich most recently earned a master’s degree in biotechnology with a concentration in regulatory affairs from John Hopkins University’s Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences in 2009 after studying chemistry and medicine at Marshall University.

Villanueva-Matkovich and her husband reside in Hurricane, W.Va.

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Valley Health Systems, Inc. is a network of almost thirty non-profit health centers that has been a Tri-State leader in the delivery of primary healthcare since 1975. Operating in southern West Virginia and southeastern Ohio, Valley Health provides services to around 60,000 patients each year.